

TURNING TALK

Newsletter of the South Auckland Woodturners Guild

TURNING TOMORROW'S TREASURES

Number 152 : February 2007

Coming Events

Activities Beyond our Clubrooms

15 February to 4 March 2007. Thames Society of Arts Summer Exhibition. Entry forms to be in by 3 February 2007

28 February 2007. Entries close for the Royal Easter Show.

3 & 4 March 2007 Turangi Jamboree run by the **Lake Taupo Woodworkers Guild.**

31 March 2007. Deliver entries for the Royal Easter Show.

5 to 9 April 2007. The Royal Easter Show is open to the public.

20 to 22 April 2007. DIY Court at the Autumn Home Show.

2 and 3 June 2007. Waimate Woodcraft Expo. To include a number of woodworking competition categories. Details to come.

7 to 9 September 2007. National Woodskills Festival, Kawerau. Opening night Thursday 6 September.

28 to 30 September 2007. SYMPOSIUM 2007 Run by Hawkes Bay Woodturners Guild at Lindisfarne.

This list for looks brief but Rex Haslip, webmaster for the NAW, has added considerably to the nation-wide list of events on the Whats On page of the NAW website. Have a look at <http://www.naw.org.nz/whatson.htm>

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Our Website is www.sawg.org.nz

SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE DUE

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And return your payment to the Treasurer with your corrected information on the form.

Programme for Term One Is on Page 3

Notices of Motion for AGM

Members are reminded that if they have a Notice of Motion for the AGM in May 2007 then that notice needs to be advertised in the March 2007 newsletter.

Training Plan 2007

Six weekend-long training courses are planned for 2007.

Two almost free courses will be aimed specifically at learner turners. This does, of course, include anyone who thinks a return to basics will be good for their work. There will be a booking fee of \$10.00 and wood will be supplied.

The first beginner course will be with Terry Meekan as tutor on 24 and 25 March. Please book in early to ensure that this course proceeds. We must have six names by 9 March. Names and payments to the Guild Secretary please.

Four courses will be subject specific. Once again weekend-long. This time costing \$95.00 and you bring your own wood. The planned subjects are: Bowls with Ian Fish; Platters and hollow forms with Terry Scott; adding to the bowl with Granville Haworth; and making the product artistic with John MacKinven. Dates and more details on these will be in the March Newsletter.

There will also be two half days for demonstrator training.

Club Night 6 December 2006. Bowl Spigots

Adding a foot to a bowl can significantly improve the end result. John Whitmore has tried a variety of ways to do this and shared his reasons and answers.

Why add a spigot? The original wood may have been thin, so an added spigot gets a useable bow. The original bowl may be from a bowlsaver and thus a hemispherical shape, so an added spigot improves the shape. The original bowl may be crumbly or irregular burr wood, so an added spigot provides a rigid foot. Adding a spigot of different coloured wood simply enhances the finished product.

No, this is not intended to be about repairing badly turned bowls but it is a technique which could be employed if the initial spigot splits off.

John has used both light and dark spigots with light and dark bowls. A dark foot under a lighter coloured bowl clearly gets the thumbs up.

The spigot can be a little bit of end grain wood, or it can be cross-grain like the bowl. If cross grain then it is desirable to match the grain direction to that of the bowl.

To attach the spigot John first tried fitting the spigot into a small dovetail in the bowl. This fit needed to be exact. Then he tried hand pressing two flat faces together but discovered that a small central dowel was needed to ensure alignment. Finally, he uses a tailstock chuck mounting for the spigot while the bowl is mounted at the head end. He presses the two bits together and turns the bowl until the glue grips.

Aliphatic PVA is the preferred glue.

When the glue is set the bowl foot can be turned and used just as if it was part of the original wood.



Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.

Club Night 13 December 2006. Last Night

It was so nice to have all that supper. Thanks to the providers.

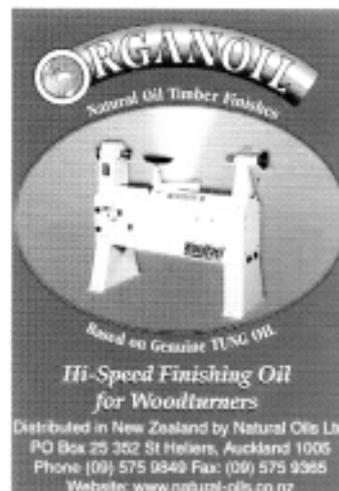
The bowl wrapping went with a rush and the Courier reporter came the next day. More than 140 packages were delivered to Kidz First and they were delighted. Each little package included a label saying our club members made the item.

The 60 bowls for "Name the Woods" competition were duly inspected and mulled over. Then the results were checked with much hilarity. If I recall correctly the best was 14 correct answers from the 60 possibilities, sorry, I forgot to write your name down.

Prizes (more stacks of wood) also went to the best toymaker and best small bowlmaker.

Then there were certificates and trophies for achievements during the year:

Most Improved Woodturner	Luke Crowsen
Best Washer Upper	Graeme Mackay
Persistence Prize	Robert Smith
"Tusitala" Award (Teller of Tales) Coatsworth	Peter
Best Muffin and Cake Maker	Susan Berry
Most Enthusiastic New Turner and Guild Handle Maker	Phread Thurston
"Gepetto" Award (Best Toy Maker)	Bryden Thorpe
Best Ceiling Divot "The Tosser"	Jim Black for his effort at Participation
"Cuppa" Award (For donation of cups)	Bob Yandell



In Our Clubrooms

First Term 2007

All the activities listed here are in our clubrooms in the Papatoetoe Stadium Community Centre, Tavern Lane, Papatoetoe.

For our regular Wednesday evenings the official meeting starts at 7:00 pm. For those who wish to make use of the machinery, do some shopping, or get a little extra advice, the doors open at 5:00 pm.

We have a Table Prize for each term. This is your work on display – lessons learned (half-finished, flawed, or failed) to the best you can do, flowing to the show-and-tell table each meeting night.

- Sat 3 February** **Upskills Day.** Doors open 8:30am. Every turner can improve their skills, or help others to improve. Or just come along, turn some wood, enjoy the morning.
- Wed 7 February** **Term Project – Pens** Plain pens and two-part pens. The options and methods shown by Dick Veitch. This is also intended to encourage club members to donate a few plain pens for use in our visitor gift packs.
- Sat 10 February** **Working Bee.** Doors open 8:30am. There are always cleaning tasks and repairs to be done. Your chance to put a bit back into the club.
- Wed 14 February** **Epoxy Inlays.** From cutting the wood to finishing to a fine gloss. Michael Bernard will show us his methods of epoxy inlays.
- Sat 17 February** **Ornamental Turners.** Start time 1:00pm. Learn and share in this precision art.
- Wed 21 February** **Captive Rings.** That pretty and intriguing little added value on goblet, pens, vases, and other things. Shown to us this time by Terry Scott.
- Sat 24 February** **New Toys and Old.** An exhibition and sale of all sorts of woodturning equipment by Ian Fish.
- Wed 28 February** **Walking New Zealand.** The story of a walk from North Cape to Bluff told to us by Peter Coatsworth.
- Sat 3 March** **Upskills Day.** Doors open 8:30am. Every turner can improve their skills, or help others to improve. Or just come along, turn some wood, enjoy the morning.
- Mon 5 March** **Upskills Evening.** Doors open 7:00pm. Every turner can improve their skills, or help others to improve. Or just come along, turn some wood, enjoy the evening.
- Wed 7 March** **Clinic and Hands-on** to make those Term Project pens. Bring your problem pieces, tools for sharpening, and your project making gear.
- Sat 10 March** **Working Bee.** Doors open 8:30am. There are always cleaning tasks and repairs to be done. Your chance to put a bit back into the club.
- Wed 14 March** **Pewter in Bowls.** The interesting process of inlaying pewter into bowls will be shown to us by Rex Haslip.
- Sat 17 March** **Ornamental Turners.** Start time 1:00pm. Learn and share in this precision art.
- Wed 21 March** **Routing on Spindle Work.** This is ornamental turning on a grand scale. Farouk Khan won the Best Baluster Award and will now show us how this work is done.
- Sat 24 & Sun 25 March** **Beginners Training Course.** Tutor, Terry Meekan. This will be woodturning taught by a person highly experienced in both woodturning and teaching. Participants need to register by paying a \$10.00 booking fee to the Guild Secretary.
- Wed 28 March** **Turning Deer Antler.** We have seen deer antler as finials, pens, and lidded boxes. Terry Scott will show us how some of these things are done.
- Mon 2 April** **Upskills Evening.** Doors open 7:00pm. Every turner can improve their skills, or help others to improve. Or just come along, turn some wood, enjoy the evening.
- Wed 4 April** **Toxic Woods and other things.** Woodturning stirs up a lot of dust and vapours and can involve other nasties. Dr Sergio Battistessa will discuss the implications of this.
- Sat 7 April** **Upskills Day.** Doors open 8:30am. Every turner can improve their skills, or help others to improve. Or just come along, turn some wood, enjoy the morning. Yes, this is Easter weekend but it is also the first Saturday of the month.
- Sat 14 April** **Working Bee.** Doors open 8:30am. There are always cleaning tasks and repairs to be done. Your chance to put a bit back into the club.

Term Two 2007 starts 18 April 2007.

Axminster 2006

Did you see the results of the Axminster Woodturning Competition 2006 as published in Woodturning No 171? We are very happy.

To quote a little of the article: "I would like to make special mention of a particular woodturning club in New Zealand. Members of South Auckland Woodturners Guild entered 35 pieces between them. Superb work and a great effort. Between them they won first, second and all the highly commended places in the Amateur category. Singling one person from that group, I was particularly impressed with the three-winged box made by Luke Crowsen."



Highly Commended. Luke Crowsen. Three-winged Box



First. Dick Veitch. Oak Flower Basket



Highly Commended. Michael Bernard. Pohutukawa



Second. Terry Scott. Golden Bowl



Highly Commended. Russell Snook. Wavy-edged Sculpture in Kauri

The SAWG 2006 Christmas Sale

by Cathy Langley

Every year in early December, members of the South Auckland Woodturners Guild bring the results of a year's turning to the Accent Point Shopping Centre in Papakura, where everything from platters to pate knives is made available to Christmas shoppers. This year, there were 26 turners whose work was displayed, some with a few items on offer and some with hundreds – for a total of more than 1700 items.

Pieces ranged from the very large – like a weather station, and a massive swamp kauri platter with a dark rim and metallic beads – to the very small, including a tiny pillbox with a threaded lid, miniature hollow forms, and little “tippee tops”, which flip over when spun.

Most of the exhibitors turned bowls or platters this year, all unique in terms of elegance and utility. Many sat on three carved feet, and many were embellished with pyrography, texturing, piercing, metallic finishes, tapa cloth, or paua. Several had natural rims, including small bowls turned from Australian burls. Some demonstrated the art of segmented turning, and others had one or more “wings”.

Customers also had a wide variety of clocks to choose from. Ten of the turners had made wall clocks or crescent clocks, including a unique square clock made as a framed array of different timbers. Many turners offered desk clocks as well. These include a selection of classic clocks with inlaid veneer patterns; small, funky timepieces set in spheres mounted on small pedestals; and clocks set into the centre of simple, elegant disks displayed on miniature plate stands.

As always, there was an extensive range of useful and/or decorative gift items, including pens, bottle stoppers, purse mirrors, trinket boxes, tape measure holders, needle cases, corkscrews, honey dippers, key rings, pepper mills, tea lights, mortar & pestles, salt cellars with scoops, serviette dispensers, walking sticks, lidded boxes, bottle openers, Lazy Susans, “chip and dip” bowls, wooden spoons and stirrers, magnetised pencil holders for the fridge, candlesticks, and vases ranging from weed pots to massive floor vases turned from weathered posts. Items for the dinner table included a unique trivet with concentric grooves turned in each side of a disk, offset on each side and cutting into each other through the disk to create an openwork effect.

The “very useful” category also included work that demonstrated woodworking, as well as woodturning, skills. These included elegant end tables, wine racks, door stoppers, serving trays, bar stools, jewellery boxes, hot pot stands, cutting boards, children's chairs, and a small board with grooves to guide your knife when cutting a piece of toast into “soldiers” for dipping, with an egg cup at one end. There were business card holders, photo holders, hanging baskets for potted plants, and an elegant set of interlocking salt and pepper shakers made of dark and light wood.

One item that was new this year was a small vase for dried flowers shaped like a section from the side of a sphere, with a flat side for mounting on the wall, and a curved side

displaying a clock, a paua inlay, or simply attractive patterns in the timber.

Toys and games also demonstrated both woodturning and woodworking expertise. These included several varieties of spinning tops, a set of quoits, whistles, yo-yo's, games involving placing pegs in holes, puzzles, detailed train engines, and an ingenious toy catapult that used the power of a rubber band to send a small plastic ball halfway across the room.

The Christmas sale is the Guild's primary fundraiser, and owed its success this year to Dick Veitch for planning and administration; Mac Duane for many things including managing the till and daily banking; Terry Scott for donating the retail space; Bob Yandell for working out the roster and providing packaging materials, and all the Guild members who put their work up for sale, called last year's customers, helped with the setup, and served as retail staff.

For the turners, the benefits are obvious – there's the satisfaction of knowing your work is valued, plus the pleasure of knowing that something you love to do is paying for the toys you need to do it with!

Time to get a head start on next year's sale – with a bit of forward planning by even more turners, it could be our biggest yet.



Some Christmas Sale Data

1814 items offered for sale

1108 items sold

Average offer price \$29.64

Average sell price \$25.74

The best return to turners in 8 years

26 happy turners

Uncounted happy buyers

Special thanks to all who helped

The Centre for Fine Woodworking, Nelson, New Zealand

by Bob Yandell

In November I attended the Level 1 (Basic) – Beginning Cabinet-Making held by the Centre for Fine Woodworking in Nelson. I had first seen John Shaw at the DYI how in Auckland two years ago and I have always been interested in woodwork and he was demonstrating the skills needed to be a good cabinet maker.

I saw John again this year at the same show as he was across the way from our own stand. This time I took more notice and decided to follow up on the courses he was running. To date I had struggled with “getting it right” and recognised that because I had had no tuition since Form 2, many years ago, I needed to get the basics right before I would progress. This was the lesson I had learnt at our woodturning.

I enrolled on the two-week course which covered the core techniques of fine woodworking. The course outline said it was “an intensely practical and challenging course with the focus on the gaining of skills”. That was just what wanted. It was limited to six students “to ensure a high degree of individual instruction”.

I went expecting to be the old man of the course as I assumed that those wanting to start a career would be young. How wrong could I be? I was probably on the mean. The other five came from Auckland, Greytown, Nelson and New York. The skill level also ranged from an accomplished furniture producer, a skilled wood worker whom had built tables, cots, and a Canadian canoe, to me who was enthusiastic and amateur.

True to the principles outlined for the course the first 3 days were spent learning about planes and chisels. We learnt about their construction. How to sharpen. How to tune. Finally how to use. By the time I got round to using my tuned up plane my soft “office wallah” we cut and cracked but boy did I have a new plane or what. Unfortunately two of the planes I took down were beyond salvage so I wasted some of my \$45 excess luggage fee.

We were taught the basic principles and practiced. Our first project was a puzzle, which was supposed to be tight. Mine was so loose it was like a rattle and simply fell apart. The next project involved mortise and tenon. More successful now that I had an understanding of why and how you use knife or maker gauges rather than a pencil. The final project involved more of the skills learnt. By now we had been given instruction on machinery – bandsaws, jointers/buzzers, table saws, routers and thicknessers. It was great to learn how to cut veneers (albeit 2mm thick) from a plank. The timbers we used were English Oak, European Beech, Walnut and the like. John Shaw had brought a lot of the material with him from his trips to Europe and USA. The final project was a small wall cupboard with veneer door and back.

I stayed with David Haig who is a craftsman making his own unique rocking chair. David is also a lecturer of the

school. I have a DVD on the chair making process which I will be willing to share with the club.

I enjoyed the course so much I am going back next May to do a bench-making course.

The organisation was great. The participants all got on. I learnt so much. Now all I need is time to apply.



John Shaw sitting in one of David Haig's, standing rocking chairs.

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Bending Wood

We spend a lot of time cutting wood to rounds on the bandsaw, or turning it round on the lathe. Vern Jensen showed us how he makes straight bits of wood to rounds using hot water – a process commonly called “steaming” as the wood may not be immersed but merely exposed to the steam from boiling water.

This is far from being a new idea as wooden boat parts, wheels, chair backs, and other things have been steam bent for an awful long time. Today steam bending continues to be used for these same things and we can also use it as an enhancement to some aspects of our woodcrafts.

Vern makes wheels that are wood inside a steel rim. The 12 hickory spokes are oval, not round, but do have a round dowel on one end. Creating the machinery to do this has been just as interesting for Vern as the completion of the wheel.

The hickory rim wood is “steamed” for at least two hours by total immersion in boiling water and then bent on a big jig. Vern notes that it is important for such bends to compress the wood inside the curve rather than stretch the wood on the outside. Hence the use of a long steel strap to pull the wood around. Somewhere in the process there is a stout post in the ground and his 5 ft tall wife helping – but I am unsure of the relationships here as we did not see that demonstrated!

For the final wheel assembly, accuracy and brute force come together. The fat ends of each spoke are a tad oversize and the circumference of the two wheel halves is 10mm over length to fit within the steel rim. But the assembled wood, dry and without any glues, is forced down into the steel rim and there it stays. The new owner of this wheel will add a steel hub and paint/varnish the wood.

Many woods will steam bend, and some will not. We saw Vern bend an old bit of rimu almost in a circle; a strip of black maire was bent to a horse-shoe shape; European oak is commonly used for chair backs; but one writer says you can steam American white oak for a thousand years and it still will not bend! There is no definitive list – just try it yourself.

Obviously thick wood will take longer to heat up than thin wood. Allow at least an hour of heating for each 25mm of wood thickness. If it cools too much before it is fully bent throw a bucket of boiling water over it. Thin wood may cool too quickly and thus need to be bent and put into a mould under water then allowed to cool and dry within the mould.



Web Watch

by Terry Scott

<http://www.knot-head.com/making.htm>

Ever wanted to make a hat, Chris Ramsey makes it look easy. Don't miss one of his steps or failure will follow. Ramsey delights in 'thin-walled' turning with many of his works achieving a thickness of a mere 3/32 of an inch (2.3mm). I liked his novel approach to feet design.



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Ian Fish Woodturning Open Day

At South Auckland Woodturners Clubrooms
Tavern Lane, Papatoetoe
Saturday 24 February – 9.00am to 4.00pm

As well as the Ian Fish shop offering Teknatool and Woodcut products there will be product demonstrations including the latest Nova 1624 woodlathe.

Two of NZ's top demonstrators – John MacKinven and Rene Baxalle will be demonstrating their skills.

Treeworkx from Matamata will be there with wood for sale and their usual product range.

Ian is keen to have an instant gallery of attendees work with a lucky number prize for entrants.

There will also be an inter-club woodturning race. Each participating club will be offered a piece of wood and a lathe to spin it on. The team has to make an object to be nominated on the day in the shortest time and the best quality. There will be a prize so select your team, start practising – more later.

Entry for the day is \$10 – if you spend \$100 or more with me you get your \$10 back. Numbers are limited to 100 so please register ASAP.

Endless tea and coffee provided but bring your own lunch.

Send \$10 to: Ian Fish Woodtuning
18c Roseberry Ave
Birkenhead 0626.
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If undelivered, please return to:
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